

29. (NEW) The article of claim 22, wherein said faucet substrate is aluminum or zinc.
30. (NEW) The article of claim 22, wherein said strike layer has a thickness between 0.25 millionths of an inch and 50 millionths of an inch.
31. (NEW) The article of claim 22, wherein said layer has a thickness between 0.1 millionths of an inch and 30 millionths of an inch.
32. (NEW) An article having a coating on at least a portion of a surface of said article, said article comprising:
- a substrate consisting essentially of zinc or aluminum; and
 - a coating on said substrate, said coating including a strike layer directly contacting said surface of said substrate and consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy and having a thickness less than 15 millionths of an inch, and a layer directly contacting said strike layer and consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound.
33. (NEW) The article of claim 32 wherein said compound is selected from carbides, oxides, nitrides and carbonitrides.
34. (NEW) The article of claim 33 wherein said layer consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound consists essentially of zirconium compound or zirconium-titanium alloy compound,
35. (NEW) The article of claim 34 wherein said compounds are nitrides.
36. (NEW) The article of claim 34 wherein said layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy consists essentially of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy.

37 (NEW) The article of claim 35 wherein said layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy consists essentially of zirconium or zirconium-titanium alloy.

38. (NEW) The article of claim 32, wherein said substrate is a faucet.

39. (NEW) The article of claim 32, wherein said substrate is a doorknob.

40. (NEW) The article of claim 32 wherein said layer has a thickness between 0.1 millionths of an inch and 30 millionths of an inch.

41. (NEW) The article of claim 32 wherein said strike layer has a thickness greater than 0.25 millionths of an inch.

REMARKS

Claims 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Meckel (U.S. Patent No. 6,076,264) and Meckel (U.S. Patent No. 6,196,936). The Meckel references do not disclose a faucet having a faucet substrate and a coating including a layer of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy and a layer of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound. Meckel '264 discloses a coated manicure implement having a coating of zirconium 132 and zirconium nitride 134 or titanium 132 and titanium nitride 134, but does not disclose a faucet substrate as required by Applicant's claims. Meckel '936 discloses a coated golf club component having a layer of zirconium and zirconium nitride or titanium and titanium nitride, but also does not disclose a faucet substrate as required by Applicant's claims. The Meckel references do not anticipate Applicant's claims, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kerber (U.S. Patent Reissue 34,173). Kerber does not disclose a faucet having a faucet substrate and a coating including a layer of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy and a layer of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound. Kerber